

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 3 (Cancelled)

4. (New) A method comprising:

monitoring a first line assembly using a second line assembly via a first connection  
connecting the first line assembly to the second line assembly;

monitoring the second line assembly using the first line assembly through the first  
connection, the second line assembly connecting to a switching network via an internal interface,  
the second line assembly connecting to other switching networks via an external interface, the  
second line assembly handling a communication stream;

monitoring the first line assembly, the second line assembly, the internal interface and the  
external interface with a device;

detecting an outage of the second line assembly using the first line assembly;

after detecting the outage, sending a message from the first line assembly to a standby  
line assembly;

switching, using the standby line assembly, the internal interface and the external  
interface from the second line assembly to the standby line assembly; and

activating the standby line assembly to handle the communication stream.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising sending an outage message from the first line assembly to the device.

6. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
detecting the outage of the second line assembly using a second connection connecting the second line assembly to the switching network; and  
sending a corresponding message to the device using the second connection.

7. (New) A method comprising:  
monitoring a first line assembly using a second line assembly through a first connection connecting the first line assembly to the second line assembly;  
monitoring the second line assembly using the first line assembly through the first connection, the second line assembly connecting to a switching network via an internal interface, the second line assembly connecting to other switching networks via an external interface, the second line assembly handling a communication stream;  
monitoring the first line assembly, the second line assembly, the internal interface and the external interface with a device;  
detecting an outage of the second line assembly using the first line assembly;

after detecting the outage, sending a message from the first line assembly to a standby line assembly;

switching, using the standby line assembly, the internal interface and the external interface from the second line assembly to the standby line assembly;

activating the standby line assembly to handle the communication stream; and

sending an outage message from the first line assembly to the device.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

detecting the outage of the second line assembly using a second connection connecting the second line assembly to the switching network; and

sending a corresponding message to the device using the second connection.

9. (New) A method comprising:

monitoring a first line assembly using a second line assembly through a first connection connecting the first line assembly to the second line assembly;

monitoring the second line assembly using the first line assembly through the first connection, the second line assembly connecting to a switching network via an internal interface, the second line assembly connecting to other switching networks via an external interface, the second line assembly handling a communication stream;

monitoring the first line assembly, the second line assembly, the internal interface and the external interface with a device;

detecting an outage of the second line assembly using the first line assembly;  
after detecting the outage, sending a message from the first line assembly to a standby  
line assembly;  
switching, using the standby line assembly, the internal interface and the external  
interface from the second line assembly to the standby line assembly;  
activating the standby line assembly to handle the communication stream  
detecting the outage of the second line assembly using a second connection connecting  
the second line assembly to the switching network; and  
sending a corresponding message to the device using the second connection.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising sending an outage message from  
the first line assembly to the device.